



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

News Release

Westport Police Investigate Boating Incident

10/23/23 9:00 PM Update:

On October 23, 2023 at approximately 11:30 AM Westport Police Marine Division located the sunken vessel near Nun #2. The search for the missing boaters continued throughout the day and at approximately 4:30 PM, the Westport Police Marine Division was notified of a body in the water approximately 3 miles Northeast of the sunken boat. A Bridgeport Fire boat was first on scene and recovered the body from the Sound. Bridgeport Fire returned to Bridgeport Harbor where they were met by Westport Police, Connecticut Medical Examiner's Office, and the family of the deceased. The deceased has been identified as 38 year old Juan Gabriel Valle Pineda of Spring Valley, NY. The body was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for autopsy. Westport Police extend our sympathies to the family of the deceased and are hopeful of recovering the second missing person. As of 9:00 PM the search for the second victim has been suspended.

10/23/23 8:30 AM Update:

Westport Police continue to search for two missing boaters. We determined that sometime after 9:30 yesterday morning, a small fishing boat that was anchored on the southside of Cockenoe Island sank. There were five people on board this small vessel when the choppy waters caused the boat to sink, and all five people ended up in the Sound. Our search efforts were suspended at 9:00 PM last night and resumed at sunrise this morning. We are currently being assisted by the US Coast Guard Marine and Air Units as well as Suffolk County Air Unit. The two missing men are from Spring Valley, NY and Suffern, NY. A significant language barrier has hampered our ability to identify the two missing persons. We are working with translators to assist with this investigation.

(Westport, CT) On October 22, 2023 at approximately 4:09 PM Westport Police were alerted to a boating incident with the possibility of two missing people. At approximately 4:00 PM, a boater traveling in the area of Cockenoe Island found a male standing on Nun #2 (a navigational buoy). A second male and female were also rescued from the water. All three individuals were transported

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into a Norwalk Marina and subsequently to the hospital for evaluation. A translator was requested and once responding officers were able to speak with the involved parties, it was learned that there was a total of five individuals on a small boat that sank causing all parties to enter the water.

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Westport Police Marine Division, with the assistance of the US Coast Guard, Norwalk Police Marine Division, Fairfield Police Marine Division, and Suffolk County Air Unit are actively searching the waters in an attempt to locate the vessel that these individuals were on and the two missing parties.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 10/22/2023
Lieutenant Eric Woods 203.341.6009